

THE MYCOPHILE

VOLUME 49:1

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

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Pipestem Foray Overview

An East-Coaster's Perspective by Dave Wasilewski

For about 25 years now I have hunted and studied wild mushrooms, but I've never been active in a club. The NAMA Orson K. Miller Memorial Foray held in Pipestem, WV, this past August was the first such event that I have ever attended.

I must admit that, as I drove south on Interstate 81 through two solid hours of Pennsylvania rainfall on an eight-hour trip to a place where little or no rain had fallen for over a week, for the purpose of hunting wild mushrooms, I felt a bit conflicted. My mind wandered through conifer groves in the Poconos where imaginary boletes pushed up through the duff. However, upon arrival it did not take me long to realize that I was in a real good spot, for everyone in attendance had some sort of interest in fungi. There were scientists, mycology students, photographers, nature lovers, and all sorts of McIlmaniacs like myself. It was my entry into the Shroomunity! *Continued on page 4*



French foray participants; see story page 3.
Photo courtesy of Alain Bellocq.

A West-Coaster's Perspective by Debbie Viess

As Steve Trudell rightly pointed out to me, don't gloat about your mushrooms until they are safely in your basket! The continuing "Curse of NAMA" (some call it global warming) slipped in the back door, behind the earlier and heartening West Virginia thunderstorms. Extreme heat and lack of rain for the previous couple of weeks made conditions on the ground challenging for hopeful finders of fungi.

Luckily, my Southern Belle hostess with the mostest, Coleman McCleneghan, took me on a few pre-NAMA forays in Virginia, where conditions were much improved. My very first walk ever along the Appalachian Trail, at the foot of Mt. Rogers, was delimited by a huge local species of lepidella: *Amanita rhopalopus*. This monstrous, off-white, deeply rooting amanita was the most abundant fleshy fungus collected; they covered most of a specimen table in great stinking piles.

Better even than fat, stinky lepidellas were the big and beautiful fruitings of *Amanita jacksonii*, or the American Caesar's mushroom. Coleman and I found a fairy ring of these edible amanitas along the Appalachian Trail; they were cloaked in gorgeous shades of bright orange, in a moist, verdant and delightfully unfamiliar woodland alive with tulip poplars and green-barked birch, rhodies and oaks.

Drawing the eye away from the spectacular amanitas were colorful boletes with unfamiliar generic



Chlorosplenium aeruginascens, one of the many delights found at Pipestem.

names like *Gyroporus* and *Pulveroboletus*, tucked among the many shades of forest green and brown. Patches of Indian Pipe, the ghostly white and transparently delicate, monotropic, saprobic plant, created more pockets of magic on the Southern forest floor.

Farther along the deeply worn and root-crossed Appalachian Trail,

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NAMA needs an EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

It was announced at the 2007 Board of Trustees meeting in Pipestem that because of other commitments, Judy Roger, NAMA Executive Secretary, will no longer be able to serve in her current position. Judy has done a superb job, and her skills as Executive Secretary will be sorely missed. The Board of Trustees is eager to find a replacement for this most important post.

The executive secretary of NAMA is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for a three-year term, which may be extended subject to annual review. The individual reports to the President of NAMA and is a member *ex officio* of all NAMA committees except the Nominating and the Awards Committees. This individual is responsible for:

- ◆ Lending administrative support to the Board of Trustees in keeping with the NAMA Articles of Incorporation and the current Regulations and Policy Manual;
- ◆ Handling routine correspondence for the officers and the committee chairs of the organization;
- ◆ Referring non-routine phone calls and letters to the appropriate officer(s) or committee chair(s);
- ◆ Maintaining the organization's office, mailing address, and telephone;
- ◆ Printing and distributing publications (e.g. *The Mycophile*, *McIlvainea*, the association's directory, association brochures and materials);
- ◆ Distributing special mailings to new members and to life members as directed by the Membership Secretary;
- ◆ Duplicating and distributing reports of actions of the Board of Trustees and the Association's committees;
- ◆ Acting as chair of NAMA's Inter-Society Liaison Committee;
- ◆ Assembling and distributing an annual report of NAMA that summarizes the activities of NAMA during the year;
- ◆ Maintaining the historical files of the organization: minutes, lists of officers, lists of awards;
- ◆ Attending and participating in the Annual Meeting and meetings of the Board of Trustees;
- ◆ Preparing and distribute the agenda for each business meeting of NAMA and its Board of Trustees prior to the annual meeting; and
- ◆ Submitting an annual report to the Board of Trustees.

A modest annual stipend of \$5,000 goes with this position. The individual selected to fill the job will be announced following the 2008 Trustees Meeting in McCall, Idaho. If you are interested in applying, please submit a brief biographical description of your qualifications and experience to Robert Fulgency, NAMA 1st VP, 5620 Code Avenue, Edina, MN 55466.

Help Us Find Our New 2nd VP!

Maggie Rogers has resigned, after several years as NAMA's Second Vice President, so that position is now open. Nominations may be submitted by the general membership and must be received prior to the 2008 NAMA Annual Meeting in McCall, ID, for distribution to the Trustees. All nominations must include in writing (1) the nominee's consent to serve and (2) a brief biographical description of the nominee's qualifications and experience. Please send nominations to Robert Fulgency, NAMA 1st VP, 5620 Code Ave., Edina, MN 55436.

Moving?

Please send your new address, **two weeks** before you move, to

Ann Bornstein
NAMA Membership Secretary
336 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610-4675
<Membership@namyco.org>

Otherwise—you may not be getting your newsletter for a while. Each issue, several *Mycophiles* are returned as undeliverable because of no forwarding address on file. NAMA is charged **seventy cents** for each returned or forwarded newsletter.

NAMA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to support the scientific and educational activities of the Association are always welcome and may be deductible as allowed by law. Gifts of any amount may be made for special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and for memorials.

Special categories include
Friend of NAMA: \$500–900
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The Mycophile is published bimonthly by the North American Mycological Association, 6615 Tudor Court, Gladstone, OR 97027-1032.

NAMA is a nonprofit corporation; contributions may be tax-deductible.

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NAMA Forays in France

by Ursula Hoffmann

Seven intrepid NAMA members went off to France, courageously coping with strikes, delays, misplaced baggage, and people talking very fast in a foreign language, especially every time we asked for directions. Of course, all of us have a great sense of humor so we surmounted most obstacles with a lot of laughter.

Poitiers

We rented cars at the PARIS airport and—via Chartres and its cathedral—drove to Poitiers to join the annual six-day meeting of la Société Mycologique de France, the French mycological society, this year hosted by the mushroom club of Poitiers. A high school was the facility, available during the students' fall break. It had a cafeteria and lecture hall, lots of labs for study, and two large classrooms for the display: one for gilled, the other for non-gilled fungi and lichens.

Sorting was done outside, with people transferring collections from their baskets into an open-weave plastic tray. These trays were stacked in locations arranged by trip number; then the collections were taken by people ready to study and identify them. Named fungi went to the recorder, who printed out a color-coded label for each collection plate (red for poisonous, other colors for good edible, etc.) and were then moved to the display.

Most of the French attendees were very serious about mushrooms and had brought books, cameras, microscopes, notebooks. They spent the afternoons and many evenings working with their and other people's collections and the display.

Every morning we rode by bus to the foray site. We returned for lunch or, on longer trips, had lunch at a restaurant near the foray site and then came back to the facility:

no box lunches—trust the French to take their food seriously.

There were a few optional van trips in the afternoons for sightseeing or mushroom collection. We were back for the bar and dinner, the evening lecture or study or the display area, then went home to our hotel for after-dinner drinks, conversation, a bit of sleep, a big breakfast buffet (including all those very edible croissants and cheeses), and back for the next day's foray. No mycophagy, but *champignons de Paris* were on several lunch and dinner menus at the school cafeteria.

While northern France had enjoyed good rain and a spectacular mushroom fair in Paris the week before, central and southern France had a drought, so the total checklist was estimated at about 400 species, instead of the usual 1000 plus. Probably because of the lack of rain, there were fewer attendees than in other years, but about 170 made a very respectable showing, especially considering the fact that the annual NAMA forays draw about 200 while the total U.S. population is five times that of France.

Highlights

All registrants received a mug and a briefcase, with nametag, area map, and a bound folder containing not only the program but also a detailed description of each foray with a colored topical map and a list of all mushrooms previously found in that area.

We walked through the managed French forests: no old growth forest, no bushwhacking, but lots of paths and trails. We met many people with fluent or minimal English, all very gracious and welcoming, who generously offered help and shared their own best wines with us. We received member status in the French mycological society and were invited to next year's meeting, near Paris.

Oh, about wines: they were flowing freely at both lunch and dinner. There was also a gala dinner, with a local comedian putting on a nonstop performance in local dialect

beyond our linguistic capability, but we enjoyed the great food, lots of wine, and watching the French laughing tears.

Diane Derouen Chambliss, in her good French, invited our hosts to next year's NAMA foray and thanked them for their gracious hospitality while the rest of us flanked her on the stage.

In the region, the foray was a big deal: all the local newspapers covered it, and the mayor of Poitiers held a reception with special mention of us American guests. The people in charge of the foray did a fantastic job organizing, disseminating information to the registrants, and publicizing the event to the town. Congratulations and thanks!

Tours

Dr. Bart Buyck of Belgium was our good companion and guide not only during the time in Poitiers, but also during the following week when we were based in Tours, exploring the Loire Valley. There, we went on another mushroom hunt led by one of Bart's acquaintances.

Several times, we visited the huge and fascinating Mushroom Museum in St. Hilaire near Saumur. A friend of Bart's owns the museum, Bart being its scientific advisor. The museum is in huge caves hewn out of the local limestone. Part of the museum are the caves for cultivating quite a variety of mushroom species (some of which we bought, cooked and ate: they were delicious); the other parts have large exhibits of cleverly preserved fresh specimens and of freshly collected mushrooms—the museum employs two mushroom collectors—as well as big charts with much information. At each of our visits the museum was well attended by tourists and French families.

On other excursions, we saw cathedrals, castles, castle gardens, flower towns (parks, plazas, houses, gardens with spectacular flower displays), some of the stunning so-

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Pipestem: An East-Coaster's Perspective, cont. from page 1

So the meager prospects of finding, for instance, bagsful of fresh chanterelles became relatively unimportant. I did, in fact, spend a lot of time foraging, but it was not the type of foraging to which I am accustomed because, on a NAMA foray, every species counts. Crusty stuff growing on a dead branch may not generally pique my interest, but such a fungus could turn out to be of great interest to one of the mycologists in attendance. A new type of excitement replaced the usual anticipation of finding a nice patch of edibles.

After registering, I found my way to my room and met my roommate Jim, a guy from western PA who was about my age and who shared my enthusiasm for the outdoors. A good night's sleep in a comfortable bed left me well prepared for some serious foraging.

Luckily, the organizers of the event had managed to do some last minute hunting of their own—for vans. A well-known car rental outfit had lost the paperwork that was supposed to guarantee our vehicles. Kudos to the people who hustled at the last minute to get the transportation in place!

A 30-minute ride took my group to Little Beaver State Park. There the group split up into smaller units and took to the various woodland trails. My group also included Tim, my friend from MushroomExpert.com, and Miklos, an eagle-eyed, experienced mushroom hunter from MI.

A thunderstorm the previous evening must have left measurable rainfall in this area. My best find was a patch of newly emerged *Cantharellus minor*, which turned up in a small clearing nearby a creek. I also found a cluster of withered *Hydnum repandum*. Of course, there was the usual assortment of Russulas to be seen, except now each one got harvested and put into a bag. Something I had not anticipated was the collection of very small fragile shrooms. Tim was nice enough to lend me an extra plastic

fishing lure container that he had brought along for the purpose of toting these tiny specimens. (Later, Tim also gave me a large basket, which comes in handy when pieces of dead tree branch need to be carried.) We walked, joked around, and shared in the excitement of finding various fungi here and there. The entire morning seemed to fit into the space of a single hour.

For the afternoon foray, I joined a different group. Some of these people were members of the NJMA, and the Washington DC MA. I have been a member of the NJ club for a couple of years now, but I had not previously met many of the other members since I live over 100 miles from the places where most of the NJ events are held. John, an NJMA member, his son Benjamin, and I spent a fair amount of time on a high and dry trail that offered little in the way of fungi, but we certainly had plenty to discuss.

Once back at the van, we saw an interesting mushroom that Ilona, a member of the DC group, had found. It was a tall majestic gilled specimen with a brown stalk that was shaggy/scaly below the ring, and a similarly shaggy/scaly brown cap surface. I had never seen one of these. Ilona said that someone had suggested it might be a type of *Lepiota* or maybe a *Pholiota*, but I thought I recognized it from the Audubon manual, which I happened to have stashed inside my knapsack. After leafing through the pages, I located pictures, and then descriptions, of two *Cystodermas* that seemed to share some of the same characteristics as the mushroom at hand. Since Lincoff included a comment to the effect that there are about 20 similar-looking *Cystodermas* found in North America, I decided that this was likely a specimen from this genus.

Back at the lodge that served as our headquarters, I searched all the pre-sort and species display tables but could not find this shroom or any other of its kind. I asked for the whereabouts of this interesting specimen, but nobody had a clue. Part of the evening's events included

a slide show that featured beautiful pictures of a wide variety of fungi. One of the pictures looked exactly like the mushroom of current interest. It was called *Leucopholiota decorosa*. That was it! At least now I knew what it was.

The next day, Saturday, I ran into Ilona, who told me that she had not submitted the specimen until Saturday morning. So once again I searched the tables for this shroom. Apparently it had been siphoned off as a specimen of interest to be preserved. Putting it onto a display table would have resulted in its being handled by many different people. This beautiful specimen must have been spared that fate.

Back at home I Googled *Leucopholiota decorosa* and ended up at Tom Volk's Web site (TomVolkFungi.net). In his synopsis of the history of the taxonomy of *L. decorosa*, Dr. Volk relates a story of a previous NAMA foray at which ultimate possession of a single specimen of this same shroom had caused a bit of a controversy amongst some of the mycologists in attendance. By this time *Leucopholiota decorosa* had made its impression upon me as a mushroom possessing great powers, in a sort of Tolkienesque sense. (Good thing there were no Hobbits at Pipestem!) After reading my account of this episode on the MushroomExpert.com discussion board, Debbie Viess kindly e-mailed me an excellent picture of the exact specimen collected at Pipestem. It has been dried and stored in a herbarium in Chicago.

For the second day of foraging I chose the Indian Falls area. The word "falls" offered hope that water might be nearby, but we soon realized that not only were there no Indians to be found, neither were there any falls! At one point I stood atop the bone-dry rocky edge of what is normally a high waterfall. But there were still fungi to be collected. And there was something kinda "Zen and the Art of Mushroom Collecting" about filling up my basket with crusts and polypores.

Back at the lodge, one dead twig that had some blackish crust on it seemed to really excite one of the scientists. I felt proud of myself for bringing in a specimen that ordinarily would have failed to capture my attention. Also, on this walk I spent some time with a guy from Cleveland, Dan, and his young daughter Emily. It was rewarding to experience the joy of discovery through the eyes of a child. Emily spotted a few good specimens, but it was Dan who had the best discovery of this foray. In an area where rainfall apparently often collects into a washdown, Dan spotted a nice cluster of fresh, perfectly formed *Armillaria tabescens*. I was surprised that such an arid area produced this specimen. Thursday night's brief shower must have been just enough.

In summary, the entire event turned out to be completely enjoyable. Scouring the woods in the name of science in order to collect such things as eighth-inch-wide pinwheels atop thread-thin stalks attached to dead leaves produces a unique sort of satisfaction. And spending a few days among so many others who, in a variety of different ways, enjoy the study of fungi was very satisfying. I was impressed by the respect the scientists showed for all of us amateur mycophiles, and vice versa.

Orson K. Miller's field guide was the first one I owned. I used it exclusively during my first two or three years of learning about wild mushrooms. Now it's dog-eared and full of scribbled notes on habitat, dates, and edible qualities. I gathered from presentations at Pipestem that the structure of this type of large-scale foray pays tribute to Dr. Miller's vision of getting a bunch of pocket knife-totin' McIlmaniacs together with a team of microscope-peerin' scientists in order to produce a fruitful variety of "symbiotic" relationships. I cannot envision any better way to honor Orson Miller's legacy than to accomplish exactly this thing.

[Editor's note: Dave is a member of the NJMA.]

Pipestem: A West-Coaster's Perspective, cont. from page 1

I spotted a perfect, shiny-capped, cream-colored, pink-topped amanita. Its membranous partial veil, bulbous base, and sac-like volva proclaimed it a member of section phalloides, but no one had a clue as to its identity. Deadly or not, it was captivatingly beautiful. I have photos, illustrations and a beautiful dried specimen, all ready to send to you, Rod!

But a gal can't live on toxic mushrooms alone. There were plenty of varieties of edible chanterelles brought to the specimen tables: *Cantharellus cibarius*, *C. minor*, *C. appalachiensis*, *C. lignicolor*, *C. lateritius*, and the Eastern black chanterelle, *Craterellus fallax*. The bad news was two-fold: the fairly substantial "cibarius" that I collected near Coleman's cabin was too worm-ridden to eat, and most of the rest of the chanterelles, although handsome and no doubt tasty, were too tiny to matter!

The thrills didn't just come from fungi. Those of us who stayed on the east side of McKeever Lodge at Pipestem State Park had a real treat—in every room were floor-to-ceiling windows opening onto a balcony that overlooked a beautiful valley, hidden river, and a series of low mountains. In the mornings this spectacular panorama was often touched by mist and fog, much like in the Bay Area, and at dawn and dusk by the leathery wings of bats that roost nearby. Who sez mushroomers never look up?!

The top-notch NAMA staff of mycologists included Bill Roody, our local West Virginia mushroom expert; Tom Volk, looking in the pink; Rytas Vilgalys, "Clade Runner" out of Duke University; Walt Sturgeon, another wonderful West Virginia mushroom expert; Walt Sundberg, a vastly experienced taxonomist and engaging teacher; Coleman McCleneghan, who gave an interesting and well-attended talk on her favorite group, *Pholiota* (and finally taught me how to tell *P.*

squarrosa from the very similar *P. squarrosoides*); Pat Leacock, from the Field Museum, documenting and vouchering our many specimens; and many other talented professional and amateur mycologists.

The foray was, of course, dedicated to the memory of Orson Miller, who had made many mushroom collections in Pipestem Park and environs. Everyone shared memories of Orson, and his wife Hope was an inspiring and touching presence.

Even under adverse collecting conditions, when you get a couple of hundred people in the field you always find something. And when you are at the other side of the continent, in a wholly different habitat, you get to see lots of cool new mushrooms! Here are some of the highlights:

I was speechless to find myself amidst a fruiting of black earth tongues, *Trichoglossum hirsutum* (though they're common to our area as well), and delighted to find the rarely seen blue-green fruit bodies of the common *Chlorosplenium* (*Chlorociboria*) *aeruginascens*, whose mycelia also stains its woody substrate a beautiful blue-green (see photo page 1). I couldn't believe my eyes when I came across a log covered in the lovely and amusing orange eye-lash fungus, *Scutellinia scutellata*. All of these fun bi-coastal fungi traveled back home with me, along with a couple of exclusively Eastern oddities: the carrot-colored *Calostoma cinnabarina*, a gelatinous stalked puffball; and *Xylaria polymorpha*, the charmingly named "dead man's fingers." Appearing soon at picnic near you!

In addition to our familiar but far too infrequently encountered *Sparrasis crispa*, the East also has another species of cauliflower fungus: *Sparassis spathulata*. This crisply delicious edible has blunt edges and resembles a stiff lace collar from Elizabethan days. Another couple of fine and locally popular edibles are two similar

Continued on page 6

Margaret Weaver Honored in Memory

Margaret Weaver of Eden Prairie had a fondness for and curiosity about the natural world that led her to become a local expert on fungi and discover three species of mushrooms. More than 30 years ago she found *Suillus weaverae*, named for her, near her family's Crow Wing County cabin. Weaver, 97, died in Eden Prairie on Aug. 10.

Weaver, an Ohio native who had lived in the Twin Cities, Faribault, and on Pelican Lake near Brainerd since the 1930s, became interested in mushrooms while hiking in the Nerstrand-Big Woods area northeast of Faribault in the 1960s.

The mysterious appearance of mushrooms fascinated her, said David McLaughlin, professor of plant biology at the University of Minnesota and curator of fungi for the Bell Museum of Natural History. Approaching experts at the university, she found that little had been done in the documentation of native Minnesota fungi. She began reading all she could about them, sometimes translating French and German works about fungi. In 1964 she took a graduate field course at the University of Michigan, at the time a hotbed for mushroom research.

McLaughlin says that though Weaver was an amateur, her academic work was scholarly. "She has been a real contributor to what we know about documenting Minnesota mushrooms," he said. In 1980 Weaver and McLaughlin published a 90-page key to some of the fungi of Minnesota for the Bell Museum. She was honored by the NAMA in the mid-1990s, and was active in the state association.

Before McLaughlin became a scholar of mushrooms, she and her husband, Dr. Paul Weaver, who took many pictures of fungi that are in the Bell Museum collection, collected stamps from all over, and wrote in Esperanto to correspondents around the world. Her husband died in 1982.

Weaver graduated from Oberlin College as an art history major and a singer. In the 1930s, she worked at several Ohio colleges. She moved to Faribault in 1939 with her husband, who practiced medicine there. She served many civic organizations, including twelve years on the Faribault school board. She is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

[Editor's note: From an article by Ben Cohen in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, reprinted here with permission. Ms. Weaver was a member of the Minnesota Mycological Society; thanks to Ron Spinosa for submission.]

Pipestem: A West-Coaster's Perspective, cont. from page 5

species of *Lactarius*: *L. corrugis* and *L. volemis*. Both bleed copious white latex, but *corrugis* has a browner cap, and *volemus* a more orange one. I tried this mushroom two years ago at the Pennsylvania NEMF, and it was excellent!

There were a number of standout boletales. Coleman couldn't wait to have me slice into a pale and non-descript *Gyroporus cyanescens* in the field; the context instantly turned ink blue, and the entire mushroom turned blue-green within a few hours. Buttons of bright yellow *Pulveroboletus ravenelii*, with their flocculent partial veils, were distinctive. The brilliantly red-capped *Boletus frostii* was also a stunner, although age and drying destroyed the deep and lovely reticulations on its stipe.

I was thrilled to see many exclusively eastern species of amanitas. Section *lepidella* was well represented by *A. rhopalopus*, *daucipes*, *longipes*, *cokeri*, and the charming black and white *A. onusta*. Many grisettes and several other members of section *vaginatae* were also collected: *A. fulva*, *ceciliae*, *jacksonii*, "*banningiana*," and the unnamed grisette "*pseudo-protecta*." Section *amanita* was represented by

A. pantherina var. *multisquammosa*, *A. farinosa* and *A. frostiana*. Section *validae* sported the common *A. brunnescens* in brown and white forms, a few *A. rubescens* (not the same "blusher" as our *novinupta* in the West), *A. volvata elongata*, *A. pseudo-volvata* and the colorful *A. flavoconia*. *Amanita bisporigera* was the dominant member of section *phalloidae* (*A. phalloides* is not found in the area yet.) And of course my little unidentified "cream and roses" *amanita*.

Phew! That's quite a list, but only a fraction of what could've been found. Luckily for me, amanitas still fruit in dry conditions.

For photos and more info on these amanitas, visit Rod Tulloss's Web site and his Smoky Mountain collections at http://pluto.njcc.com/~ret/amanita/key.dir/am_gsmnp.html#sectvagi.

Hope you enjoyed this vicarious trip to the mushroomy Southeast. Travel is so broadening!

[Editor's note: Debbie is a member of the Bay Area Mycological Society.]

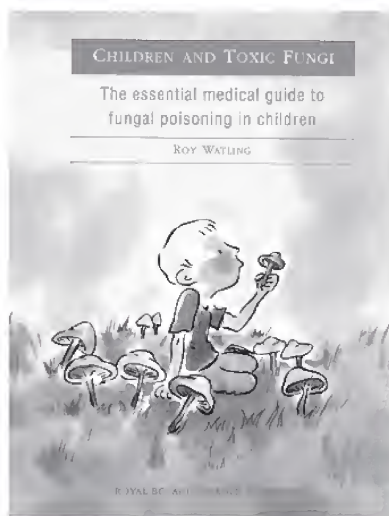
Like to read poems about mushrooms? Who doesn't!

The Mushroom Poems by Joyce Hodgson (12 pages + photos) is still available.

Joyce, a retired British biologist who has just finished a Ph.D. in poetry, has produced six pamphlets of poems on a variety of themes, including mushrooms.

You can order your copy of *The Mushroom Poems* for just \$7, which covers postage and handling.

Inquiries and orders can be directed to Britt Bunyard, editor of THE MYCOPHILE (contact information on page 2 of this issue).



Children and Toxic Fungi: The Essential Medical Guide to Fungal Poisoning in Children, by Roy Watling. Edinburgh: Royal Botanic Garden, 1995. ISBN 1-872291-16-3. Paper. 54 pp.

Although this isn't a new book, it is still available and deserves to be more widely known. The author, a world expert in the Bolbitiaceae, leccinums, tropical macrofungi, and many other myco-subjects, was for many years the head mycologist at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and long has been a wonderful teacher of and mentor for amateur mycologists in the U.K. and beyond. He wrote this small book in response to the finding that, in the U.K., roughly half of the suspected poisonings by fungi involved children.

Thus, in this short handbook he describes and provides treatment information for the fungi (including some non-poisonous ones) most likely to be consumed by grazing youngsters. These are species found in back yards, lawns, playing fields, and the like; he excludes those characteristically found in forests and woodlands as children are less likely to sample their fungal surroundings in those habitats. Because most of the fungi included also

occur in North America (e.g., *Agrocybe praecox*, *Conocybe filaris*, *Marasmius oreades*, *Clitocybe dealbata*, and *Panaeolus foenisecii*), much of the information will be of use to those of us on this side of the Atlantic.

Watling first introduces eight major toxicity categories and their associated symptoms, and provides a flow chart that uses the observed symptoms to pin down the particular category. The potential causative fungi are listed along with page references for the descriptions and treatment information. Each two-page spread deals with one or two species. The information includes toxicity category, key characters of the mushroom, medical symptoms, treatment, habitat, general notes, and general, technical, and medical references. Each species is illustrated with a color photo, and many of Roy's simple but effective line drawings of fruit bodies and microscopic features are included. The descriptions are written in non-technical language.

In cases where two species are treated on the same pages, they are designated "A" and "B" and discussed as such. I found this somewhat confusing and suspect that it would be even more so if I were a frantic parent whose child had just wandered into the kitchen with a mouthful of mushrooms. The photos are a bit small and their quality is varied—some are good, while others are too dark or fail to show the key features of the fungus. The line drawings will be especially helpful in these cases.

For those who are likely to be called by the local emergency room or neighbors for assistance in the case of mushroom ingestions, this would be a useful library addition.

—Steve Trudell, Seattle, WA

[Ordering information: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, www.rbge.org, e-mail <pps@rbge.org.uk>]

Fungi Down Under: The Fungimap Guide to Australian Fungi, by Pat and Ed Grey. Melbourne: Royal Botanic Gardens, 2005.

Fungimap is an Australia-wide community group dedicated to advancing the knowledge of fungi and promoting their conservation. The main activity of Fungimap is a mapping project for macrofungi, focusing on 100 readily identifiable target species. This compact volume is a guide to those 100 species and, because those species cover a wide range of morphotypes (gilled mushrooms, boletes, polypores, corals, etc.), it can serve as a general introduction to macrofungi for those new to the field.

After the foreword, preface, and extensive acknowledgments, the book consists of three main parts. The first part is an introductory section providing background information on fungi and how they are classified, as well as how-to information on observing and identifying them. The second is the meat of the book, comprising the 100 species descriptions. The third part consists of six appendices, including a glossary, list of synonyms, pronunciation guide, meanings of scientific names, a list of references, and background information about Fungimap.

The species treatments are arranged one species per page. They include common and scientific names, a capsule description that includes habitat information, a more detailed description, brief discussion of look-alikes, good-to-excellent-quality color photos (typically two photos per species, one of which includes callouts of the key identification features), and a map of Australia showing the recorded distribution of the species.

The layout is attractive and functional, but I have two com-

Continued on page 14

Slide Contest Winners for 2007



A



J



F



H



E



C



B



D



G

Pictorial Open

First Place:

Stereum ostrea, by Walt Sturgeon

Second Place:

Ramaria sp., by David Work

Third Place:

Hydnellum peckii, by Ron Pastorino

Honorable Mention: *Xeromphalina campanella*, by David Work; *Clavulinosis fusiformis*, by Noah Siegel; *Leucopholiota decorosa*, by Noah Siegel; *Albatrellus caeruleoporus*, by Noah Siegel; *Rhodotus palmatus*, by Walt Sturgeon; *Stropharia rugoso-annulata*, by Noah Siegel; *Gastrum quadrifidum*, by Lawrence Leonard; *Polyozellus multiplex*, by Noah Siegel

Documentary Open

First Place:

Agaricus arvensis, by David Work

Second Place:

Leucopholiota decorosa,
by Walt Sturgeon

Third Place:

Tremiscus helvelloides, by Noah Siegel

Honorable Mention: *Pleurocybella porrigens*, by Charles Fonaas; *Mycena pura*, by Noah Siegel; *Hypholoma sublateritium*, by Walt Sturgeon

Judges' Option

Winners:

Look What I Found (*Calvatia gigantea*),
by Dick Dougall

Chromelosporium coerulescens

2 stages 4.5 X, by Lawrence Leonard

Braconid Wasp on *Pleurotus ostreatus*,
by Charles Fonaas

Catalog of Educational Programs on Mushrooms and Other Fungi

Enrich your meetings and teaching sessions with NAMA slide and video programs. When ordering, please allow plenty of time for packing and shipping by our volunteer. All programs have written scripts, and most also include a narrative on audio cassette. The cassettes are not cued for automatic advance. *Some programs are now on videotape.*

To order: Write, call, or e-mail Carlene Skeffington, giving your name, street address (no P.O. boxes), date you need the program (allow time for previewing), alternative program choice, and phone number where you can be reached. If you wish a confirmation, please enclose a self-addressed postcard with correct postage.

Cost: These programs are available on loan to NAMA members and NAMA-affiliated clubs at no charge; but due to financial restraints, we are requesting voluntary contributions (suggested amount: \$5 to \$10 per program) to cover the costs of outgoing postage and upkeep. Checks should be made payable to NAMA and enclosed with the program return.

Non-members pay \$20 per program; include with your order form a check made payable to NAMA.

After use, please return programs promptly via first class (i.e., priority) mail, insured for \$50 per program. UPS or similar commercial carrier is fine, too, and usually includes up to \$100 insurance. Please return the enclosed form or pertinent information so that we can verify your return of borrowed materials.

Address for orders and return shipments: Carlene Skeffington, 505 W. Hollis St., Ste. 109, Nashua, NH 03062, phone (603) 882-0311, email <carlene@drsplh.com>.

We encourage nonmembers to join NAMA in order to rent our programs at the member rates.

Programs for Rent

Our programs are copyrighted and are not to be used for commercial purposes.

1. Diversity of the Mushroom World. Steve Trudell. 45 min. 138 slides. This is a beginners' program. Lifestyles of mushrooms, where they live, and what they do, with emphasis on the variety of forms, colors, etc. No audio.

2. The Gilled Fungi: The Friesian Method of Classification. Dr. David Hosford & Kit Scates-Barnhart. 40 min. 79 slides. Explains and illustrates with diagrams the terminology and stature type of the Friesian system. This system has been in use for 150 years. Features identification without using a microscope.

3. Gilled Fungi: The Friesian Genera. Dr. David Hosford & Kit Scates-Barnhart. 60 min. 80 slides. For mushroom identification classes and advanced students. Demonstrates which genera of each spore color occur in each stature type and explains how to tell them apart. Most effective if used after program #2.

Programs 4–11 are a series intended to help the student learn to identify a wide variety of common mushrooms, including edible and poisonous species. Program 4 should be viewed first, but the others can be used in any order.

4. Introduction to the Major Groups of Mushrooms. Dr. Michael Beug. 40 min. 80 slides. A general overview of mushroom identification, with music background. May be substituted for program 1. *This is a new program and not a revision of #4.*

5. Gilled Mushrooms I: White Spored. Dr. Michael Beug. 48 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Includes Amanita, Lepiota, Hygrophorus, and Russula families.

6. Gilled Mushrooms II: White Spored. Dr. Michael Beug. 43 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Includes Armillaria, Mycena, Flammulina, Collybia, Marasmius, Clitocybe, Laccaria, Lentinus, Pleurotus, and others.

7. Gilled Mushrooms III: Pink to Brown Spored. Dr. Michael Beug. 42 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Covers Pluteus, Volvariella, Entoloma, Paxillus, Gymnopilus, Pholiota, Hebeloma, Cortinarius and others.

8. Gilled Mushrooms IV: Purple-Brown to Black Spored. Dr. Michael Beug. 36 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Discusses Agaricus, Stropharia, Psilocybe, Coprinus, Panaeolus, Chroogomphus, and more.

9. Non-Gilled Mushrooms I. Dr. Michael Beug. 42 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Chanterelles, boletes, hydnums, and polypores.

10. Non-Gilled Mushrooms II. Dr. Michael Beug. 47 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. The clavarias and gasteromycetes including puffballs and bird's nest fungi. Also the Hymenogastrales, the false puffballs.

11. Non-Gilled Mushrooms III. Dr. Michael Beug. 43 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Ascomycetes and Heterobasidiomycetes. Includes morels, false morels, and jelly fungi; also discusses slime molds and other fungi.

12. Amanitas of the Pacific North West. Janet Lindgren. 32 min. 62 slides. An overview of some of the many Amanitas to be found in the Pacific Northwest. Includes a chart of the subgenera and sections of the genus Amanita. Reviewed by Dr. Rodham Tulloss.

13. Microscopy in the Study of Mushroom Spores. Dr. Leo J. Tanghe. 40 min. 79 slides. For general audiences. Clearly explains how to use a microscope and prepare slides for observation. Uses photomicrographs to explain the diversity and characteristics of spores for the accurate identification of mushrooms.

14. The Ultrastructure and Diversity of Mushrooms. Paul Stamets. 40 min. 74 slides. The scanning electron microscope reveals the three dimensional details of mushroom spores and tissues.

15. Photographing Fungi. Two parts. Harley Barnhart. 70 min. 156 slides. **Part I:** A basic treatment covering the choice of subjects, equipment and film characteristics, use of natural light, exposure, and composition. Suited for audiences with limited photographic skills. **Part 2,** a more advanced treatment encompassing techniques for electronic flash and macrophotography (extreme close-ups).

16. Poisonous and Hallucinogenic Mushrooms (revised). Dr. Michael Beug. **Part I,** 35 minutes, 40 slides. **Part II,** 30 minutes, 40 slides. May be shown as one long program or two short ones. Includes a 23" x 37" wall chart, "Diagnosis and Treatment of Mushroom Poisoning," by Kit Scates-Barnhart. Suitable for general audiences, students, or physicians. Explains the effects of ingesting toxic mushrooms. Covers toxin groups, their chemical compositions, and symptoms. Toxic species are described. *Available on the Web:* <http://www.evergreen.edu/user/library/tesce/mushroom/phm>.

17. Mushrooms: Macro to Micro. Kim Emmons & Cara Styles. 50 min. 157 slides. Kim and Cara have created a fascinating mycophotographic journey from natural habitats to the microscopic world of fungi. Covers more than thirty species. A guided trip into the language of microscopy and the inner workings of fungi and slime molds. Appropriate for general audiences and mycology students.

18. Mushrooms for Color. Copyright 1989, David Marks Productions. 28 min. VHS Video. A visual record of mushroom-dyeing. Includes scenes from California and Sweden. Much of the footage is from the Fourth International Fiber and Fungi Symposium and Exhibition, Mendocino CA, 1988. Suggested for use along with program #19.

19. Mushrooms for Paper. Copyright 1993, David Marks Productions. 10 min. VHS Video. A how-to demonstration and a record of the opening night of the Exhibition of Mushrooms for Paper at the Mendocino Art Center in October, 1992. Useful for schools and other groups. Suggested for use in conjunction with program #18.

20. A Guide to In-Camera Editing. Copyright A First Generation Video Production. 20 min. VHS Video. Includes a pamphlet. A quick and easy way to edit as you go when taping speakers and documenting events.

21. Morels, Truffles, and Other Spring Fungi. Dr. Michael Beug. 40 min. 80 slides. VHS video available. Includes morels, false morels, cup fungi, truffles, false truffles, puffballs, earthballs, and gilled and pored mushrooms likely to be found in spring. *Available on the Web:* <http://www.evergreen.edu/user/library/tesce/mushroom/mtsm/mtsm.htm>.

22. Cooking with Hope. Hope Miller. 58 slides. Audio tape not yet available. While traveling with her world-famous mycologist husband, Dr. Orson K. Miller, Jr., Hope had the time and supplies of mushrooms to experiment and developed many creative recipes and cooking techniques. She shares some of these with you.

23. Mushrooms in Kansas. Ron Meyers. 45 min., 80 slides. Covers some of the surprising diversity of mushrooms found in Kansas, many of which probably also are found in the other states of the Great Plains.

24. Winning Slides from NAMA Photo Contests. This is not a formal program, but we will assist you in obtaining some of our most beautiful slides for a discussion or delightful presentation of your own design. Call for more information.

25. Introduction to Mushrooms. Dr. Michael Beug. 50 min. 80 slides. An introductory program for all audiences that covers the most common edible and poisonous mushrooms as well as the best cultivated mushrooms. The program is intended to guide the viewer to the best edible species and away from the most dangerous species. While the emphasis is on mycophagy, attention is also paid to the role of mushrooms in the environment and in human attitudes. *Available on the Web:* <http://www.evergreen.edu/user/library/tesce/mushroom/introm>.

26. Introduction to Fall Mushrooms. Dr. Michael Beug. 45 min. 80 slides. Focuses on the common basidiomycetes found during the fall season with comments about habitat and ease of identification. The mushrooms represented are from throughout North America with a slight bias towards the species found in the Pacific Northwest. *Available on the Web:* <http://www.evergreen.edu/user/library/tesce/mushroom/if>.

NEW Video Programs

Available to members and affiliated clubs for a period of two weeks **free of charge** except for return postage.

27. A Walk in the Woods. Dr. Samuel Ristich. A group of mushroomers are led on a walk in the woods with Sam as the leader.

28. After the Ashes Cool: A Look at Post Fire Fungi. Dr. Nancy Smith Weber. A thoroughly researched and informative slide lecture on the fungi that grow in forest burn sites. It was filmed at a meeting of the New Mexico Mycological Society.

29. An Introduction to Mushrooming Basics. Dianna Smith videotaped Don Shernoff and the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Society on two fall walks as Don covers all the important aspects of mushrooming for beginners. He explains mushrooming in a serious, thoughtful, and intelligent manner and draws your interest as you follow him on the walk. Dianna produces videotapes on nature and gardening topics for a weekly cable TV program in New York. 1 hour. (Available for purchase—see page 13.)

Continued on page 12

NAMA Educational Materials, continued from page 11 **NAMA Mushroom Teaching Kits**

In addition to the NAMA Eastern Mushroom Teaching Kit, we are now offering a second Mushroom Teaching Kit with emphasis on the fungi of the Western section of the United States and Canada. Both of these programs are available for rental through our NAMA Education Section programs for grades K-8 (K-12).

The kits are a teaching tool for teachers, naturalists, and clubs, and for use at mushroom and garden fairs. The contents of the kits are similar, with some geographical variation in the slides, dried fungal material, and spore prints.

These kits provide

- Hands-on classroom aids
- Activity ideas that include artistic, cultural and scientific approaches to fungi
- Basic information necessary to teach grades K-8 about fungi. Basic information is divided into grades K-3 and 4-8. It can be used for a 45-60 minute lesson or over an extended period of time. It can also be adapted for use in grades 9-12.

The kits contain

- Lesson ideas and activities for grades K-12 relating to fungi
- Illustrations of fungi on 4" x 5" poster board
- 9 overhead transparencies illustrating basic mushroom anatomy, the variety of shapes and spore-bearing surfaces of fungi, and fungi ecology
- Laminated spore prints
- Mycological Society of America's "What You Can Do with Mycology" posters on the subject of careers in mycology
- NAMA poster on mushroom poisoning
- 35mm slides of different fungi
- 25 plastic hand lenses
- Dried fungi samples
- Foam blocks and skewers (to mount fresh specimens for drawing in the classroom)
- Large magnifying glass on a stand
- "MykoCD" from MykoWeb
- 2 videos on the growth of slime molds
- Taylor Lockwood's DVD of his "Treasures of the Fungi Kingdom" shows
- Teaching materials developed by Dr. Walter Sundberg
- Wool samples made with fungal dyes and "Fungal Elf," all by Sue Hopkins

- Books: Katya Arnold and Sam Swope, *Katya's Book of Mushrooms*; David Arora and Jeannette Bowers, *Mushrooms of the World Coloring Book*; Emily Johnson, *North American Mushroom Photo Postcards*; Bryce Kendrick, *A Young Person's Guide to the Fungi*; Nancy Parker, *A New Home for 'Lil Gnome*

Kit Rental Information

The rental fee for each program for NAMA members and affiliated clubs is \$40; for non-members the fee is \$50. The program is the property of the authors and of NAMA and is not to be copied or used for commercial purposes. *We encourage nonmembers to join NAMA in order to rent our programs at the member rates.* The renter will pay return postage and \$100 insurance. Send a request to rent the kit for one week to ten days, together with a check or money order made out to NAMA, to

Eastern Mushroom Teaching Kit

Carol Dreiling
380 Curtis Parker Road
Alexander, NC 28701-9667
(828) 683-8678
caroldrei@aol.com / (828) 254-6199

Western Mushroom Teaching Kit

Maggie Rogers
1943 SE Locust Ave.
Portland, OR 97214-4826
(503) 239-4321

Acknowledgments: Many thanks to NAMA members who contributed to the contents of the kits: Dean Abel, Carol Dreiling, Louise and Bill Freedman, Catharine Gunderson, Susan Hopkins, Emily Johnson, Taylor Lockwood, Theresa Oursler, Nancy Parker, Samuel Ristich, Maggie Rogers, Sandy Sheine, Allein Stanley, Walt Sundberg, Mike Wood. If you would like to add items to the Mushroom Teaching Kits, please send them to Carol Dreiling or Catharine Gunderson. We would like objects such as dried fungi, spore prints, books, videos, and other teaching materials.

New! NAMA Educational Committee DVDs

Five new educational DVDs are now available from NAMA and many more are planned over the coming two years. The DVDs contain PowerPoint Presentations with an Audio track and a Word file of the text that can be printed out and on occasions when audio is not available. They also contain a file about NAMA and instructions on how to use the DVD. The DVD can be viewed as a narrated slide show with narration or individual frames can be viewed in any order while displaying the text below each frame. Requests for the DVDs should be handled the same as requests for slide-tape programs and should be addressed to Carlene

Skeffington, 505 W. Hollis St., Ste. 109, Nashua, NH 03062, phone (603) 882-0311, email <carlene@drsphl.com>.

Introduction to Mushrooms

DVD by Michael Beug (55 minutes): This program is an update of the Introduction to Mushrooms slide-tape program by Michael Beug. It covers nearly 80 species of both gilled and non-gilled mushrooms that are common in many regions of North America, plus several species that are readily cultivated. The species list for the program includes all of the author's favorite edible mushrooms plus the most dangerous of the poisonous mushrooms.

Naming Mushrooms: Who's My Daddy? DVD by Michael Beug (24 minutes): This program is a light-hearted look at 49 of the author's favorite common mushrooms and why their scientific names have changed over the 30 years he has been photographing mushrooms. You will learn how the changes reflect our ongoing understanding of genetic relationships, our discovery that sometimes our mushrooms which carry European names are different than their European counterparts, our discovery that sometime mushrooms that we thought to be one species are several species and why common names have even more pitfalls than scientific names.

Morels and Other Spring Ascomycetes

DVD by Michael Beug (23 minutes): This program covers many different types of morels plus a range of other wide-spread spring Ascomycetes focusing on when and where they are found and giving tips on correct identification. Over 44 species are discussed.

Snowbank Mushrooms and Western Spring Basidiomycetes

DVD by Michael Beug (20 minutes): This program focuses on the unique ecology of the western snowbank mushrooms. These fungi fruit in the Rocky Mountains, Cascades and Sierra Nevada Mountains and are typically not found in the mountains of Europe or in the eastern United States. The author has also included many of the common spring Basidiomycetes that are not part of the snowbank mycoflora but can be found at lower elevations in the West.

Reflections on Poisonous Mushrooms

DVD by Michael Beug (43 minutes). This program is a complete revision of the Poisonous and Hallucinogenic Mushrooms slide-tape program. Dr. Beug chairs the NAMA toxicology committee and draws on 30 years of mushroom poisoning reports in the NAMA database to discuss all of the mushrooms that have been reported to cause fatalities in North America and the mushrooms that are most frequently involved in cases of gastrointestinal distress.

Programs for Sale

Diagnosis and Treatment of Mushroom Poisoning.

Kit Scates-Barnhart. Poster, 24 in. x 36 in. An excellent gift for clubs to give to hospitals and clinics. It is an important addition to any club's educational resources. Make check for \$24.95 + \$4.50 shipping and handling payable to Fungal Cave Books
1943 S.E. Locust Ave.
Portland OR 97214-4826

Pronouncing Names of Fungi.

Cassette tape and script. Features the recorded voices of Dr. Alexander H. Smith and Dr. Rolf Singer. *Side One* contains Dr. Smith giving American pronunciations while *Side Two* has Dr. Singer with the European pronunciations. Helps you decide which pronunciations your friends will prefer! Make check for \$7.75 payable to NAMA Education Committee and mail to NAMA Pronouncing Tape
1943 SE Locust Ave.
Portland OR 97214-4826

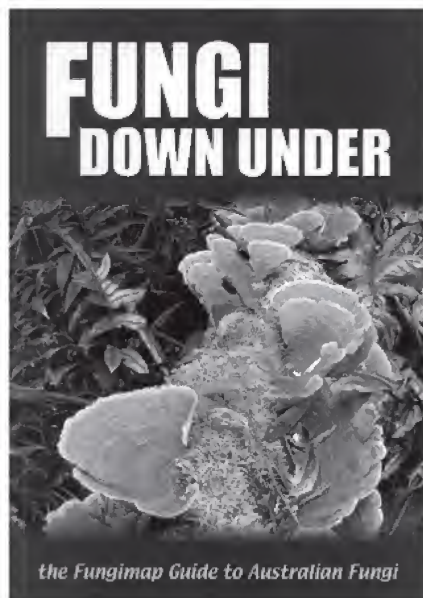
Slime Molds I, II, & III.

These three historic films have been collected on one video, running about 65 minutes. The color films were prepared by James Koevenig in 1961 at the University of Iowa under the direction of C. J. Alexopoulos, G. W. Martin, and R. T. Porter. The video uses live-action and time-lapse photography, photomicrography, and animation to teach about the fascinating world of myxomycetes. Tapes will be prepared as individual orders are received, so allow extra time. Cost per tape is \$29.95 + \$5.00 shipping and handling (\$7.00 s/h overseas).

The regular tape is in NTSC format (for North America) but is available in SECAM (France and others) or PAL (Spain, Germany, and others) by special order. Specify the required format and send check or money order for \$46.95 (shipping included), payable to NAMA, to Dean Abel

Biological Sciences 138 BB
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

Notes: If you know of a slide, audio or video production that should become a part of this NAMA service, please contact Sandy Sheine, Education Committee Chair, P.O. Box 81640, Rochester, MI 48308, (248) 652-9498, <ssheine@aol.com>.



plaints about the photographs. First, the main photo is done as a vignette, so the environment of the fungus (which I consider of great importance for identification) is usually not apparent. Second, the other photo, which usually does show the environment, is in many cases too small to be effective. Despite those quibbles, the treatments should allow for ready identification of the little ping-pong bat, velvet parachute, small dung button, and the other 97 interesting fungi covered by the project.

An innovative addition is a color chart provided inside the back cover for those interested in preparing accurate descriptions of the fungi they find. The chips are arranged by hue (in eight groups, from brown-yellow to green) and are denoted by numbers from 1 to 190. Perhaps when someone has time, he or she can compile a correspondence chart with the Ridgway, Methuen, and Munsell color guides to make the chart more widely useful.

This is a fine little book and would serve as a good, albeit brief, introduction to Australian fungi for those planning a trip down under. If you aren't planning a trip, a skim through these 100 fungi might make

UNC Crowd Spored, Not Bored, by Taylor's "Most Beautiful Mushrooms"

Popular photographer and lecturer Taylor Lockwood, portraying himself as an "aesthetic mycologist," entertained a full house of experienced and novice lovers of fungi on September 11 in Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Lockwood, who looks like Indiana Jones, exuded charm and a sense of adventure while regaling the audience with his tales.

Lockwood described the audience as the largest turnout yet during the promotional tour of his new book, *Chasing the Rain*. The book's subtitle, "My Treasure Hunt for the World's Most Beautiful Mushrooms," aptly describes his vibrant narrated slide show of digital images.

Lockwood's pioneering work has led to international acclaim from mycologists, mushroom enthusiasts, photography critics, and nature lovers. For over 20 years and in over 30 countries, Lockwood has sought out the most striking and astonishing members of the fungal kingdom in order to share his own enthusiasm for the beauty of mushrooms, and to combat Americans' singular apprehension of them. His visits frequently garner headlines such as "Photographer Attacks Fungal Phobia in America."

Lockwood enhanced the abundant specimens shown with his extensive knowledge of mushrooms and his exciting stories of the fellow enthusiasts and experts he has met

you consider one. The idea of a mapping project also provides a model for NAMA and might help us increase our role in conserving fungi and their habitats nationwide.

—Steve Trudell, Seattle, WA

[Available through Fungimap Book Shop, www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap AUD\$29.95 (Paperback), plus AUD\$8.00 postage and handling]

in Tibet, Australia, Europe, Africa, Japan, India, Indonesia, and North America. His story of transformation from rock-and-roll violin player to successful building contractor to man of leisure to mushroom aficionado kept the audience laughing and amazed. But their amazement turned to outright awe as the photographs began to roll.

Confessing to a particular attraction for blue mushrooms, Lockwood didn't hesitate to show numerous stunning variations of that hue, but there were also oranges, yellows, reds, greens, and even brown ones that didn't look drab. The images of the fungi that grow on termite hills in Australia were fascinating. Hearing his nicknames for the fungi, such as "blue potato mushroom," "laundry lint mushroom," and "jungle cups," added to the fun.

Lockwood also loves the challenge of photographing mushroom's undersides, so many of the images gave the audience a chance to see luminous underneath views of the glow and translucence of gills and stems. He also spoke about his evolving photographic techniques, interesting cultural exchanges, and mishaps and surprises, such as almost stepping into the maw of a deadly tree snake in China.

The presentation at UNC was sponsored jointly by Friends of the Library and the North Carolina Botanical Garden. In addition to *Chasing the Rain*, Lockwood is also the author of *Treasures from the Kingdom of Fung*, and several DVDs and educational videos about mushrooms. —Jeffery Beam

[Editor's note: Jeffery Beam is the Assistant to the Biology Librarian, Botany Section, at UNC and the author of 16 works of poetry and criticism, including the award-winning *An Elizabethan Bestiary: Retold and What We Have Lost* (spoken word CD), *Visions of Dame Kind*, and—with Lee Hoiby—the song cycle *Life of the Bee*.]

NAMA Awards for 2007

Each year NAMA's *Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology* recognizes someone who has contributed extraordinarily to the advancement of amateur mycology. Its recipients have often extensively conducted workshops, led forays, written or lectured widely about mushrooms and identifying mushrooms, all on a national or international level. Selection is made by a committee consisting of past award winners, and the award includes a plaque and lifetime membership in NAMA.

This year's winner of the NAMA Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology has had a career in mycology since she was in diapers. She comes from a family of mycologists and is the first NAMA Award winner with a parent who won this award before her. Her contributions to amateur mycology include a 15-page single-spaced itemization of every foray she has led or participated in, every lecture and workshop she has given, every research project she has conducted, and every article and book she has written so far, going back over more than 30 years of active duty in the trenches of amateur mycology.

This year's winner of the NAMA Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology is Dr. Nancy Smith Weber.



The NAMA Board of Trustees established the *Harry and Elsie Knighton Service Award* to recognize and encourage people who have distinguished themselves in service to their local clubs. The Knightons' efforts began the North American Mycological Association in 1967.

The annual award consists of a framed certificate; publicity for winner and club in *THE MYCOPHILE*; one-year membership in the organization; and registration, housing, and foray fees for the next NAMA Foray.

Each year's recipient is selected by the three most recent recipients of the Award. Every NAMA-affiliated

mycological club may nominate one candidate who it feels has performed meritorious service during the current or preceding year. The Knighton Service Award has been given every year but one since 1989.

This year's winner, David Work, received three first-place votes from the three judges who reviewed all the nominations. David has invigorated his club the past several years. He is currently the membership chairman of his club, the Mid-Hudson Mycological Association. He is also the club's webmaster, chief photographer, and chief chef. He gives mushroom lectures and slide shows that audiences love. He writes articles about mushrooms and mushroom forays that people praise for their wit and information. And he organizes mushroom walks and has successfully brought whole families into the woods and fields in his area—a not inconsiderable achievement!

—Gary Lincoff

NAMA Forays in France, cont. from page 3

called "troglodyte" towns (houses built into and of the local white limestone cliffs, with flowers providing the color). Last but not least, we visited wine tasting caves to purchase great Loire wines and enjoyed wonderful meals as well as each other's company.

Our last full day was in Paris, with a tour of the natural history museum guided by Bart Buyck and a great farewell dinner near the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

We did get lost quite often: whenever our informants told us the place we were looking for would be really easy to find, we just knew we would get lost again—and so we did, giggling. Our really big problem was not having enough time to sleep or do more than get a mere taste of the many "entertainments" assailing our brains, eyes, noses, palates.

Yes, we want to do it again! Will you join us? All that is needed is a love of mushrooms and adventure!

EDITORIAL

"Where's my MYCOPHILE?" I've been asked this quite a bit over the past months.

I wish I could tell you that the newsletter has been away on vacation, but the real, regrettable, news is that because NAMA is experiencing a financial crunch, I was ordered to cease printing any newsletters for a while.

Furthermore, as this problem is expected to persist into the future, it likely will lead to fewer issues—and with fewer pages—as well as a reduction in the number of color pages (or issues with no color whatsoever).

I have received lots of terrific commentary since taking on the newsletter, so I am deeply saddened to have to reduce the quality and quantity of *THE MYCOPHILE*.

Furthermore, despite an outpouring of appreciation for reviving *McIlvainea*—after 6 years' absence—I regret to inform the readers that NAMA's journal will go back to a single issue per year and possibly little or no color. In any case, the next issue is not to be published until summer 2008 at the earliest.

Again, I deeply regret having to be the bearer of this bad news, but wish all the members the very best in the New Year.

—Britt

North American Mycological Association

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Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association
THE **MYCOPHILE**

Mushroom of the Month



*This month's mushroom
is the rarely seen
Leucopholiota decorosa,
found at this year's
Annual Foray. More about
this mushroom inside the
issue . . .*